

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION

FEB 17 1951

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

Czechoslovakia

50X1-HUM

Feb. 1951

PROJECT Soviet Pressure on the Czech Government

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1. Because of a nation-wide wave of Titoism in Czechoslovakia, Moscow has ordered sweeping changes in the Czech government. President Klement Gottwald, Prime Minister Antonin Zapotocky, and former Foreign Minister Vladimir Clementis have been identified as the principal deviationist leaders. A resurgence of Czech nationalism prompted the Soviet government to order that Czech stockpiles of munitions, food, coal, oil and wood be removed to the USSR for "safe keeping". When the Czech government refused to comply, Moscow sent Deputy Foreign Minister Valerian A. Zorin to Prague to direct the efforts of the pro-Soviet faction to maintain control. Immediately upon his arrival in Czechoslovakia on 4 February, Zorin ordered the arrest and confinement of suspect Czech leaders.
2. The current Soviet action in Czechoslovakia was preceded two weeks ago by sweeping dismissals of high-ranking Army officers and government officials. No widespread publicity of the purge or trials is expected since Czech nationalism is now rampant and pro-Soviet leaders fear that dangerous popular demonstrations would result. The whereabouts of Clementis and other leaders who are reported to have been arrested or to have fled is not known.

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